Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(New)** A vehicle occupant protection system for a motor vehicle having a vehicle seat with airbags integrated into lateral areas of a seating part and of a backrest, a compressed air regulating device configured to adjust air pressure of the airbags, and a control unit configured to evaluate data that is relevant to safety of the driving operation, and to time the actuation of the compressed air regulating device so that at least one airbag is inflated before an anticipated accident.

11. **(New)** The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein all the airbags are inflated before the anticipated accident.

12. **(New)** The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein only the airbags that are relevant in terms of safety equipment for a specific accident are inflated.

13. **(New)** The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein at least one support element in at least one of the backrest and a headrest has airbags actuated by the compressed air regulating device.

14. (New) The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the air pressure is set by the compressed air regulating device as a function of at least one of a vehicle occupant classification system and a person identification system.

15. (New) The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the air pressure is set by the compressed air regulating device as a function of a specific accident.

16. (New) The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the data comprises at least one of vehicle state variables, ambient data and driver activities.

17. (New) The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the airbag is arranged to be deflated if an accident does not occur.

18. (New) The vehicle occupant protection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the control unit is configured to actuate a reversible seat belt pretensioner in a time sufficiently before the anticipated accident.